

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 10, 2009. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 12 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0036790 (Nishiyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,666 (Evans). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama and Evans in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0077097 (Parry). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama and Evans in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0103885 (Hamada). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a system that provides a unique user environment to a plurality of users who share usage of the same information and image processing apparatuses. In such a system, an "active session" for a user is one of a plurality of user sessions that allow a user to exclusively operate a display unit of the information processing apparatus and is a user session that occupies the display unit of the information processing apparatus to which a plurality of users can log-on. In one aspect of the invention, information, whose procurement is started by the user session for a predetermined user activating the determined display program, is transmitted to another display program active in the active session which occupies the display unit. The information transmission to the other display program enables the display unit to display the information obtained through the determined display program, which is active in the

user session, even when the display unit is occupied in the active session. Accordingly, the present invention provides the technical advantage that even when the display unit of a PC is occupied by one user, it is possible to automatically display information procured by another user who logs-on to the same PC without switching between the two users.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a notifying method of notifying a user of information regarding an image processing apparatus which communicates with an information processing apparatus wherein the information processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to the information processing apparatus, an environment, as a user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated, and wherein one of the user sessions serves as an active session for one of the plurality of users who exclusively operates a display unit of the information processing apparatus. The method includes a print data transmitting step of transmitting print data to the image processing apparatus; an obtaining step of obtaining the information regarding the image processing apparatus, the obtaining step being started by one of the user sessions for a predetermined one of the plurality of users activating a first display program; a specifying step of specifying an active session from among the user sessions for another of the plurality of users different from the predetermined user, wherein the other user can exclusively operate a display unit of the information processing apparatus and wherein the active session occupies the display unit of the information processing apparatus to which the plurality of users log-on; an activating step of activating a second display program corresponding to the active session specified in said specifying step in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus obtained in the obtaining step on the

display unit occupied in the specified active session; an information transmitting step of transmitting the obtained information obtained in the obtaining step to the second display program activated in the specified active session in the activating step; and a displaying step of displaying, in response to the information transmitting step transmitting the obtained information, the transmitted information on the display unit occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Nishiyama and Evans, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of specifying an active session from among a plurality of user sessions for another user of the plurality of users different from a predetermined user, wherein the other user can exclusively operate a display unit of an information processing apparatus and wherein the active session occupies a display unit of the information processing apparatus to which the plurality of users log-on, activating a second display program corresponding to the active session in order to display obtained information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified active session, transmitting the obtained information to the second display program, and displaying the transmitted obtained information on the display unit occupied in the active session through the second display program.

In contrast to the present invention, Nishiyama discloses displaying status information on printing of job data on a display unit of an information processing apparatus. In response to a request from one user to a printer, Nishiyama transmits the status information including status information on job data provided by other users from

the printer to the information processing apparatus. In addition, Nishiyama changes displayed contents of the status information for respective users in order to ensure confidentiality of job data set in confidential printing. (See Nishiyama paragraphs [0067] to [0070] and Figs. 12 and 13).

However, Nishiyama fails to disclose or suggest specifying an active session from among a plurality of user sessions for another user of the plurality of users different from a predetermined user, wherein the other user can exclusively operate a display unit of an information processing apparatus and wherein the active session occupies a display unit of the information processing apparatus to which the plurality of users log-on. Instead, Nishiyama merely discloses transmitting status information on job data provided by one user including status information on job data provided by other users to respective users. Therefore, as Nishiyama fails to disclose an active session as featured in Claim 1, Nishiyama cannot possibly disclose or suggest activating a second display program corresponding to the active session in order to display obtained information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified active session, transmitting the obtained information to the second display program, and displaying the transmitted obtained information on the display unit occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Evans does not overcome the shortcomings of Nishiyama. Evans discloses shared computing, which allows a plurality of users to concurrently log-on to a single computer. As disclosed in Evans, a separate desktop thread is created for each authenticated user and a separate desktop is created in association with each desktop thread. Evans further discloses allowing a plurality of users to concurrently log-on to a

single computer. However, Evans fails to disclose or suggest specifying an active session from among a plurality of user sessions for another user of the plurality of users different from a predetermined user, wherein the other user can exclusively operate a display unit of an information processing apparatus and wherein the active session occupies a display unit of the information processing apparatus to which the plurality of users log-on. Therefore, as Evans fails to disclose an active session as featured in Claim 1, Evans cannot possibly disclose or suggest activating a second display program, transmitting the obtained information to the second display program, and displaying the transmitted obtained information on the display unit through the second display program, as featured in Claim 1.

In addition, Applicant has reviewed the remaining references, namely Parry and Hamada, and respectfully submits that neither reference discloses or suggests that which is missing in Nishiyama and Evans.

In light of the deficiencies of Nishiyama and Evans as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 12 are directed to an apparatus and a computer readable memory medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 12 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect

of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the \$130 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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